(b) whether there is any likelihood of exodus of refugees from Tibet to India in the wake of declaration of Martial Law there by China and whether India would provide sanctuaries to those refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of reports of widespread demonstrations and disturbances in Lhasa. There have been reports of the loss of several lives and the declaration of martial law in Lhasa.

(b) No exodus of refugees from Tibet into India has been noticed recently. Government's approach towards refugees continues to be based on well-established traditions and principles.

Hurdles in boosting the Tourist Traffic

3340. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state what are the hurdles coming in the way of boosting tourist traffic in our country, when the countries like Maldives, Singapore, Hongkong and China are going well ahead and what steps are being taken to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): There has been an appreciable increase in tourist arrivals in India during the Seventh Five Year Plan, showing an increase of 10.4 per cent against the target of 7 per cent. Additionally, the average stay of a foreign tourist in India is 30 days as against 3—5 days in Maldives, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc.

The main limiting factor in achieving higher growth rate is constraint of resources resulting in inadequate infrastructural facilities, insufficient airline capacity, shortage of tourist accommodation, etc. To promote tourism to India, Government is taking several steps which include diversification of Indian tourism from cultural-oriented tourism to holiday and leisure tourism, development of facilities for trekking, winter and water sports, wildlife, beach tourism, etc. In addition, Government has recently granted a number of fiscal and financial incentives to attract private sector investment in tourism so as to strengthen tourism infrastructure in the country.

House Building Advance to Railway Employees

3341. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway authorities take more than two years to sanction house building advance to their employees particularly those working at railway stations and in the regional offices in Western Railway; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to evolve such a method whereby railway employees are saved from undue delays in sanctioning house building advance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. House Building Advance is generally sanctioned to Railway employees with in a period of one to two months subject to availability of funds and submission of proper requisite documents.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of penalty on Nepalese Companies for over-loading of Coal Wagons

3342. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from three Nepalese Companies namely Ankita